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17 DEAD AT FLA. SCHOOL

SUSPECT IS A FORMER STUDENT WHO WAS IDENTIFIED AS A THREAT TO OTHERS, TEACHER SAYS. PAGE 4A

The Baxter Bulletin

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2018 BAXTERBULLETIN.COM MOUNTAIN HOME, ARKANSAS PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Police: MH man uses Taser on little girl



Josh Dooley Baxter Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

A heavily intoxicated Mountain Home man assaulted an 11-year-old girl with a Taser on Monday afternoon and threatened three other children with the device, according

to a report from the Mountain Home Police Department.

Police were called to the Spring Valley Kitchenettes at 4:21 p.m. Monday when the mother of the child told a dispatcher that 39-year-old James Charles Smith had just assaulted her daughter.

When police arrived, the woman told them Smith, a neighbor of hers, came to her residence heavily intoxicated, armed with the Taser and upset about his divorce.

Smith put the stun gun up to her 10-year-old son and pretended to use the device on the boy. Smith

then turned to the woman's 13-year-old son and used the device on the teen's pant leg.

Smith then turned to the woman's 11-year-old daughter and triggered the device against the little

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Rodeo Court expansion to start next month



A pair of roadblocks bar access to the northern, undeveloped end of Rodeo Court on Tuesday afternoon. The City of Mountain Home plans to start work next month on extending the dead-end street and connecting it into Rodeo Drive just south of the Mountain Home Junior High School. SCOTT LILES/THE BAXTER BULLETIN

Scott Liles Baxter Bulletin | USA TODAY NETWORK

The City of Mountain Home is expected to begin work next month on extending Rodeo Court and connecting the dead-end street into Rodeo Drive, Street Director Arnold Knox said Tuesday.

Knox, updating members of the City Council's Street Committee on the city's road projects, told council members that the Street Department had secured the necessary easements for the Rodeo Court project.

Connecting Rodeo Court and Rodeo Drive just south of the Mountain Home Junior High School would give

motorists on Hwy. 5 North and Hwy. 178 access to Hwy. 62/412 West without forcing them to travel through downtown Mountain Home.

"We feel good about the project, and think that it will help the traffic at the Junior High," Knox said.

The elongated Rodeo Court would also give motorists on the city's west side access to the Western Hills Subdivision, the West End shopping complex, Arkansas State University-Mountain Home and the Sheid-Hopper Bypass without having to travel on Hwy. 62 B.

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Weaver may go to trial in daughter's murder case

Josh Dooley Baxter Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Anastasia Weaver, mother of murdered toddler Alithia Ivory Boyd, appeared in Marion County Circuit Court Wednesday where her attorney told presiding Judge John Putman the case was likely to go to trial.

The judge informed the 23-year-old Mountain Home woman that she would be notified when court found a set of appropriate dates to hold a jury trial.

Plea negotiations can continue even after a trial has started, so a plea bargain is still possible for Weaver.

The state, should the case go to trial, will have to overcome a tarnished witness as former Flippin Police Chief Ronald "Dusty" Smith was fired from his position last year and now faces allegations he stole in excess of \$63,000 from the city of Flippin.

Weaver faces charges of permitting child abuse and manslaughter in connection with the death of her almost two-year-old daughter, who was brutally beaten to death by Weaver's boyfriend, 25-year-old Cody Allen.

In October of last year, Allen took a plea deal and was found guilty of first-degree murder and sentenced to life in prison.

The affidavit in Weaver's case remains sealed by judicial order. The affidavit in Allen's case was unsealed after he was convicted of first-degree murder in a plea deal that saw Allen escape a potential death penalty had he been convicted.

In Allen's affidavit, police allege Weaver lied to them and did not seek help for injuries Alithia suffered two days before her daughter suffered a second beating at the hands of Allen, Weaver's boyfriend at the time of the toddler's murder.

Allen was arrested May 3, 2016, by Flippin police and Marion County Sheriff's Office personnel in connection with the girl's injuries following an intense, 48-hour investigation.

On May 1, police began the investigation into the girl's injuries after they received a call about an unresponsive

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BRMC buys system to lift patients into ambulance

Billy Jean Louis Baxter Bulletin
USA TODAY NETWORK

Reported injuries at Baxter Regional Medical Center are identified via the hospital's Wellness and the Workforce Safety programs.

Over the last several years through workforce evaluation, the ambulance team had several emergency medical technicians and paramedics who sus-

tained injuries due to lifting and moving patients, Gerald Cantrell, ambulance director for BRMC, said.

To rectify that situation, the hospital concluded it needed to reduce the injuries. So, it purchased a new system, Stryker Lift and Load, to load patients into the ambulance.

Using trauma grant money, the hospital purchased the system for \$40,000, Chris Fry, an ambulance su-

pervisor for BRMC, said. Stryker Lift and Load, a bed system that carries up to an 800-pound patient, allows emergency medical technicians and paramedics to do less manual work when lifting patients.

The hospital primarily bought the system to prevent back injuries. Additionally, it wanted to save money.

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